

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L Leningrad 0385

EXDIS

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: PINS, SREF, UR
SUBJ:UPDATE ON LENINGRAD JEWISH EMIGRATION

REF: LENINGRAD 0201

1. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO NEW EXIT PERMISSIONS FOR
LENINGRAD REFUSENIKS DURING MONTH WHICH HAS ELAPSED SINCE
REFTEL'S REPORT. THEY ARE VLADIMIR KRICHEVSKIY AND IGOR
LEVIN. ANOTHER ELDERLY REFUSENIK, IOSEF REZNIKOV, WAS
RECENTLY CALLED TO OVIR AND TOLD TO REAPPLY.

2. JEWISH COMMUNITY IN LENINGRAD IS TITILLATED BY A
RECENT MILITIA CALL IN OF SEVERAL PROMINENT REFUSENIKS
TO CHECK THEIR EMPLOYMENT SITUATIONS. LOCAL MILITIA
FIRST ASKED INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED (ALL RESIDING IN SAME
DISTRICT) TO SIGN PAPER PROMISING THAT THEY WOULD OBTAIN
JOBS WITHIN TWO MONTHS. ALL REFUSED TO SIGN, BUT DID
PROVIDE WRITTEN EXPLANATIONS OF WHY THEY WERE NOT WORKING,
I.E. BECAUSE OF HAVING APPLIED FOR EMIGRATION.
INTERESTING ASPECT IS THAT MILITIA THEN CAREFULLY
INFORMED INDIVIDUALS THAT THE "PARASITE LAW DOES NOT
RPT NOT APPLY TO REFUSENIKS, AN OPINION HELD AS WELL
BY THE LENINGRAD PROCURATOR." MILITIA WENT ON TO EXPLAIN
THAT LAW ON PARASITISM (TUNEYADSTVO) APPLIES ESSENTIALLY
TO DRUNKS AND HOOLIGANS AND THAT JEWS WOULD NOT BE
BOTHERED "IF THEY BEHAVE," REFUSENIKS WHO WERE CALLED
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IN TO MILITIA REMARKED THAT THEY WERE INTERVIEWED BY LOW

LEVEL MILITIAMEN WHO APPREARED TO HAVE NO SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE OF PROSPECTIVE JEWISH EMIGRANTS, AS SUCH. ONE SOURCE BELIEVES THAT MILITIA SHIED AWAY FROM PRESSING "REQUIREMENT" TO WORK BECAUSE LOW LEVEL MILITIAMEN DID NOT WANT TO BE PLACED IN POSITION OF EXPLAINING TO SUPERIORS THAT MOST OF REFUSENIKS CONCERNED WERE WITHOUT WORK BECAUSE OF APPLYING FOR EMIGRATION.

3. COURSE ADVISED POLOFF THAT IT IS STILL NOT KNOWN WHETHER REFUSALS OF EMIGRATION APPLICATIONS WILL COME FROM DISTRICT MILITIA HEADQUARTERS OR, AS IN PAST, FROM MAIN LENINGRAD OVIR. REFUSENIK DUTY OFFICERS AT CENTRAL OVIR NOTED THAT THERE WERE NO REFUSALS ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK.

4. YEVGENIY ABEZGAUZ, THE JEWISH ARTIST AND PERHAPS THE MOST MILITANT OF THE REFUSENIKS, WAS ALSO CALLED TO MILITIA RECENTLY BUT DID NOT GO. ABEZBAUZ IS STILL AWAITINGWORD FROM OVIR ON HIS REAPPLICATION OF SIX WEEKS AGO.

NEUBERT

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